CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A denture comprising:

a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the gum-receiving member.

2. The denture as described in claim 1, wherein the gum receiving material is a denture reline material.

3. The denture as described in claim 2, wherein the reline material is selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline material and silicone reline material.

4. The denture as described in claim 3, wherein the gum is a gum of a user of the denture.

5. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the denture is an upper denture, and the upper denture does not include a palate.

6. The denture as described in claim 4, wherein the reline material has a thickness between approximately 1 mm and approximately 5 mm.

7. A method for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an individual, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting the denture to fit the individual, the denture comprising:

a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

preparing the selected denture by heating the selected denture to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F);

positioning the prepared denture within the mouth, the gum receiving member receiving a gum of the individual; and

fitting the denture by the application of a force to the denture.

8. The method as described in claim 7, wherein the force is a biting force.

9. The method as described in claim 8, wherein the force is applied for a time period sufficient for the gum receiving member to conform to the gum.

10. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the time period is between approximately 1 minute and approximately 30 minutes.

11. The method as described in claim 9, wherein the heating step comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a temperature between approximately 38 degrees C and approximately 95 degrees C.

12. The method as described in claim 11, wherein the heating step comprises immersion of the selected denture in water at a temperature between approximately 45 degrees C and approximately 80 degrees C.

13. The method as described in claim 11, further comprising the step of fitting a second denture in the mouth, the second denture being fitted in opposition to the first denture.

14. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the individual is edentulous.

15. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the first denture is selected from the group consisting of a lower denture and an upper denture.

16. A kit for fitting a denture in situ in the mouth of an individual, the kit comprising:

a denture, comprising:

a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.); the reline material conformable to the configuration of an item received within the gum-receiving member; and

a set of instructions.

17. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the denture is selected from the group consisting of an upper denture; a lower denture; and an upper denture and a lower denture.

18. The kit as described in claim 16, wherein the upper denture does not include a palate.

19. An upper denture comprising:

a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the inner and the outer walls, and a tooth receiving portion;

a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

the tray being generally U-shaped and lacking a palate.

20. A denture for being fitted in situ in the mouth of an individual in need of a denture, the denture comprising:

a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion; and

a layer of denture reline material, the denture reline material selected from the group consisting of acrylic reline material and silicone reline material, the reline material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby forming a gum receiving member, the gum receiving member being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the gum-receiving member.